



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

gy and Botany, it frequently happens that the same name will occur, not only in both these sciences, but will be occasionally used for different genera in one or the other kingdom. No principle is perhaps better established than that which denies the same name to different genera ; and it is necessary, therefore, that those concerned in the construction of generic nomenclature, should look over the names already instituted, as a safeguard against a *double emploi*. Thus *Cenchrus* and *Apogon* are genera in both kingdoms.

I wish, therefore, to propose a few changes in the names of several genera, viz :

Anopaia, instead of *Harpyia*, Cuv., for a genus of birds, the latter name being preoccupied, both in Mammalogy and Entomology.

Oplacerus, instead of *Mazama*, Smith ; this name having been pre-applied to *Ovis* or *Capra montana*, Ord, by Rafinesque.

Sargus, was long since applied to a genus of dipterous insects by Illiger : Cuvier more recently, upon dismembering the genus *Sparus* of Artedi and Linnæus, improperly adopted it for the typical section, to which, therefore, the original name *Sparus* must be applied.

Lynx, (a subgenus of *Felis*,) was published by Rafinesque in 1817, and I believe has the priority of *Lynchus*, which is also the name of a genus of Crustacea.

STATED MEETING, JULY 12, 1842.

MR. PHILLIPS in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

A specimen of *Canis latrans*, (prairie wolf,) from Illinois ; of *Crocodylus lucius* (adult size;) and of *Talpa Europæa*, from the Alps. Presented by Dr. Blanding.

A donation of finely prepared plants of Kentucky, &c., consisting of 77 species; some of which are rare and one entirely new. From Prof. C. W. Short, of Louisville, Kentucky.

Specimens of Diallogite, from Transylvania; Kerolite, from Gumberg, Silesia; Picrosmine, from Pusterthal, Tyrol; Picrolite and Metaxite, from Reichenstein, Silesia. Presented by J. Randolph Clay, Esq.

A specimen of Dysluite, from New Jersey. From Mr. Joseph A. Clay.

Fossil Ferns, from the vicinity of Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland. From Dr. Watson.

The following large and valuable collection of Fossil bones and shells from the Brunswick canal, Georgia, were presented by J. Hamilton Couper, Esq. of Darien, Ga., through Dr. Harlan.

Fragments of the superior maxillary bones of the Megatherium, showing the sockets of the teeth.

One side of the lower maxillary of the Megatherium, with the four teeth in place.

Head of the femur, and fragments of the same bone of do.

Vertebræ of do. and fragments of the ilium, showing the glenoid cavity.

A lower incisor tooth of the Hippopotamus.

The same, with the points broken off.

A fragment supposed to belong to the same animal.

Tooth of a Horse; broken.

Teeth of the Mastodon giganteum.

Pieces of the ribs, vertebræ, &c. of the Mammoth and Mastodon.

Two rotulæ of the Mammoth, and a fragment of a tusk.

Teeth of the Elephas primogenius.

*One side of the lower maxillary of an animal unknown to the donor; with teeth.

*A Humerus, supposed to be of the Bos family.

A Tibia, do. do.

A rib and vertebræ of a Whale.

Fossil Shells.

Pyrula carica; *Venus mercenaria*; *Cytherea concentrica*; *Cardium ventricosum*; *Arca pexata*; *Mactra lateralis*? *Tellina alternata*; *Ostrea edulis*; *Oliva literata*; *Pectunculus*; *Lutraria* and *Solen*.

Corresponding recent shells taken from the sea-beach within ten miles of the canal.

Also, a portion of petrified wood, found abundantly in small fragments.

Samples of marl, green sand, and proto-sulphate of iron, from the canal where the rib and vertebræ of the whale were found.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Syllabus of a course of popular lectures on Physiology. By Reynell Coates, M. D. From Mr. Haldeman.

American Journal of Science and Arts. Vol. 43, No. 1. For April, May and June, 1842. From the Editors.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Haldeman read the following additional Remarks on Changes of Nomenclature in Natural History, which were referred to Dr. Morton, Dr. Bridges and Mr. Phillips as a committee, who reported in favour of publication in the Proceedings.

* Since described by Dr. Harlan, at pp. 143, 144, of *Silliman's Journal* for July 1842, the former as the left ramus of the lower jaw of *Sus Americana*, and the latter as the right os femoris of *Chelonia Couperi*.

In continuation of my observations on the use of the same name for different genera, I would remark that it is possible, in many instances, to vary the later one so slightly, that it would be essentially the same; and, to prevent confusion, the name of the author who instituted the genus, might be cited for it.* These variations might take place either in the orthography, in the gender, or by a diminutive. Linnæus himself has set us an example, in applying such names as *Picus* and *Pica* to distinct genera of birds.

But in making changes of this kind, it is very necessary to be careful that great confusion be not the result. Thus, Bonaparte has proposed "*Pogonathus*, Bon." in place of "*Pogonias*, Cuv." because the latter is applied to a genus of birds. Yet if we turn to the *Règne Animal*, we will find "*Pogonias* Lacép." We do not, however, find *Pogonias* in Lacépède, the name being *Pogonathus*.

I propose *Ancylus* and *Teronyx*, instead of *Ancylus* and *Trionyx*, for genera of Hymenoptera.

Conoura, *Eucryptus* and *Auchenella*, instead of *Conurus*, *Cryptus*, (Hal.) and *Auchenia*, for genera of insects.

Clypastræa and *Strongulus*, instead of *Clypeaster* and *Strongylus*, for coleopterous genera.

Cymindus, instead of *Cymindis*, for a genus of birds; and *Labeola* instead of *Labeo*, for a genus of insects. There are many other names employed for distinct genera; thus *Chione*, *Venilia*, *Cleodora*, *Pandora*, *Hyria* and *Lucina*, are common to conchology and entomology; *Sylvia* and *Tanagra* to the latter and ornithology; and *Labeo* and *Zyæna* to entomology and ichthyology.

The following "Note on the Natural Alliances of the genus *Cecidomyia*, intended to facilitate identification;" was read by Dr. B. H. Coates, and referred to a committee, viz.: Dr. McMurtrie, Dr. Pickering, and Mr. Haldeman; who reported it for publication in the Proceedings of the Academy.

Nothing new is professed to be furnished by the present paragraphs. They are compiled from sources not difficult of access among the liberal collections of this city; but it has been hoped that some utility could be derived from preserving and more widely diffusing a memorandum of the alliances of this destructive family of insects, so as to increase the number and practicability of observations on the part of those favourably situated for that purpose.

The old Linnean genus, *Tipula*, is, I believe, a natural one. It is, at all events, one of a striking appearance. A delicate, lightly framed, two winged fly, of a form much resembling the mosquito, frequently capable of resting and dancing on running streams of water, so as to attract popular attention by the circumstance, and at the same time unable to inflict severe and penetrating wounds on the bodies of warm-blooded animals, from the feebleness of its proboscis. This organ would seem, in general, only fitted for sucking up uncovered or but slightly covered fluids; and contains, to use the language of one of the best authorities, only a pair of lancets; being, in this respect, very deficient when compared with the allied family, *Culicidæ*. The antennæ, with the exception of a single sub-family, are thread-shaped. The perfect insect shows but little avidity for food.

Five natural groups seem to arise; in each of which the appearance of the per-

* Cuvier writes "*Machœra*, Lacép." but this genus stands *Makaira*, in Lacépède's work, and it is the more necessary to retain the original orthography, as *Machœra* has been recently applied to a genus of Mollusca.

fect insect visibly differs, and the habits of the larva vary materially in respect to food and habitation. We copy some of the characters.

1. *Chironomides*. Aquatic Tipulides. Male antennæ plumose; larvæ aquatic.
2. *Tipulides proper*. Terrestrial Tipulides. Head elongated into a muzzle; no ocelli; larvæ inhabit the earth.
3. *Mycetophilides*. Tipulides of fungi. Two or three ocelli; trochanters elongated; tibiæ strongly spurred; larvæ feed on fungi.
4. *Cecidomyiides*. Tipulides of gall-nuts. Head not prolonged into a muzzle; no ocelli; trochanters of ordinary length; antennæ moniliform; larvæ feed in galls formed on vegetable substances.
5. *Bibionides*. Tipulides of flowers. Antennæ short, perfoliated, generally fewer than 12 joints; legs of ordinary length; larvæ often resident in rotten dung and vegetable debris. [To me, this seems contradictory.]

The above classification is quoted from M. Latreille; and is preferred by the author whom I have already cited, and whom I believe to be Mr. Westwood. The less extensive knowledge of the species possessed in the years when Messrs. Meigen and Lamarck wrote, prevented their distribution of the family from being, at that time, so perfect. They are compelled, in this place, to follow a more artificial method; and have thus brought in close approximation some animals whose mode of life has subsequently been thought to differ. It has since been thought to be rendered evident, that the larvæ of the proper tipulidæ, at least as a general rule, live on the roots of plants. Among the authorities cited for this are Kirby and Spence.

It is evident that the natural affinities of *Cecidomyia*, are with the sub-family to which it has given its name. It has been approximated to *Lasioptera*. The latter is a genus with terrestrial larvæ, living on roots; and the parent, according to professor Meigen, not furnished with an ovipositor. The figures, too, given by the latter writer as specimens of the genera, differ in their habitus. In the earlier state of knowledge in relation to the tipulide tribe, and particularly while the larvæ were less known, the collocation of several species was doubtful. Mr. Meigen is said to place the tipula juniperina L., which inhabits the tops of the juniper, "doubtfully in *Lasioptera*." I understand the words "unbekannte horde," under which he introduces this species, to mean "unknown, or ill-understood horde," or "unknown, ill-defined group."

It is observed that every larva of the family, thus far, appears to consume solid substances by chewing, and, as a necessary inference, to possess real jaws; instead of sucking by a trunk, as has been, in this country, universally affirmed of the species so frequently the subject of popular discussion. The consideration goes to strengthen, if possible, the inference that the quiescent substance generally supposed, in imitation of Mr. Say, to be the larva of the Hessian fly, and which, by the avowal of that distinguished writer, so closely resembles the pupa, is really the pupa in an earlier stage, and that the larva is to be looked for in the maxillated and gnawing worm.

It appears to be every where observed, that as soon as these animals increase to a certain extent, their further diffusion is immediately limited by the ravages of the different parasites of the families Chalcididæ and Proctotrupidæ. The coincidence of these diminutions, from a cause not generally understood, with various other circumstances affecting the wheat crops, probably gives reputation to many other supposed means, natural and artificial, of destroying the injurious fly.

The Corresponding Secretary read several letters from Mr. Couper, of Georgia, addressed to Dr. Harlan of this city, in

reference to his donation of fossil bones and shells of this evening; and also containing a list of the specimens.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Dr. Chaloner exhibited a specimen of a small Trilobite, said to have been taken from a coal excavation at the Bear Gap, about 14 miles from Pottsville, Pa., along with the fern impressions so numerous in such excavations. Some doubts were expressed by Dr. Chaloner as to the correctness of his informant. He was desirous, however, of calling the attention of the members to the subject.

In relation to the donation of Minerals this evening, Mr. J. A. Clay remarked, that they exhibited in a striking manner, the identity of certain Magnesian minerals of the U. States, and especially of those of Chester county, Pennsylvania, with the Picrosmine, Metaxite, &c. of Europe.

BUSINESS BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION.

On motion of Professor Johnson, Resolved, That the 2d Part of the 7th Vol. of the Journal of the Academy, be presented to M. de Longchamps, of Leige.